In theory, the Constitution is the Magna Carta which rules over the courts, however, it is the political interests which govern this compromised institution.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all men and women have the right to life, liberty and security. It protects us against arbitrary arrest. It is regrettable that these principles are not honored in Nicaragua. The human rights of thousands of citizens in Nicaragua continue to be violated. Right now there are over 120 political prisoners, some of whom have been tortured, in the jails of Nicaragua. These citizens were unfairly convicted and sentenced by judges who were politically motivated. These are individuals who had committed no crime other than to peacefully assemble and march in disagreement with the government. These human rights abuses are a product, in part, of the loss of the judicial and prosecutorial independence.
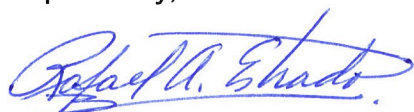
Since last week, the four major political opponents that have emerged as possible candidates for the presidency have all been arrested. This is another example of blatant disregard of the rule of law and justice.

In our efforts to inform and advocate for change toward a free and democratic Nicaragua, we have met with several members of congress, including Rep. Darin LaHood, Rep. Rodney Davis and other officials. We also had the opportunity to share our concerns over the human rights violations with Sen. Marco Rubio.

We have also communicated our concerns to the Nicaraguan government. On April 8th of this year, we presented a letter to the officials at the Nicaraguan Embassy requesting that President Ortega release the political prisoners. There has been no response.

We still hope that he will make the right decision and show the international community that his administration is willing to move forward and seek a peaceful resolution to this current sociopolitical and humanitarian crisis.

Respectfully,

Rafael Estrada, MBA
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